



State Senator

BRUCE PATTERSON

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LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

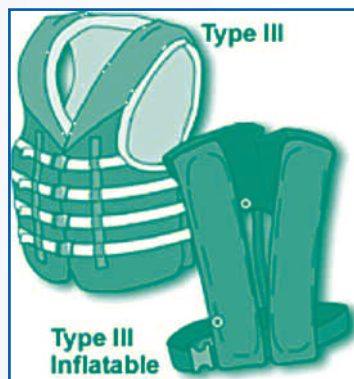
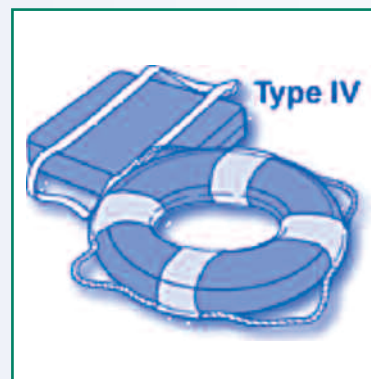
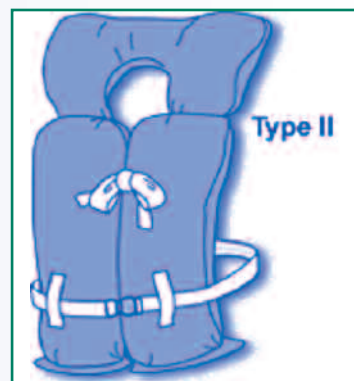
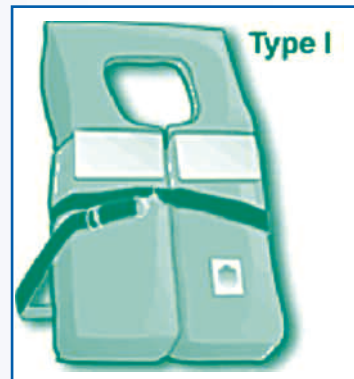
All boats must be equipped with a personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board – it's the law! Boat safety first and make sure everyone **wears** their life jacket. Under Michigan law, children under six must wear a Type I or Type II PFD. Consult the Handbook for more details on PFD requirements.

TYPE I: Offshore Life Jacket. Vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They are excellent for flotation and will turn most unconscious people face up in the water.

TYPE II: Near-Shore Vest. Vests created for calm waters and fast rescues. They may lack the capacity to turn unconscious wearers face up.

TYPE III: Flotation Aid. Vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters and fast rescues. They are not for rough waters since they will not turn a person face up.

TYPE IV: Throwable Device. Cushions or ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. They are not for long hours in rough waters, non-swimmers, or the unconscious.



MICHIGAN BOATING & FISHING GUIDE



STATE SENATOR
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Dear Friend:

There's no better place to enjoy the water than in Michigan! Fun and adventure are just a splash away whether you boat, sail, fish, canoe, kayak, ski or watch nature.

I hope you and your family enjoy a safe and enjoyable season on the water. If my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 1-866-262-7307 or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov. Anchors aweigh!

Best Wishes,

Bruce Patterson
State Senator
7th District

PIER SAFETY

Hundreds of thousands of people are drawn to the beauty of the Great Lakes each year. Yet, the water can be dangerous as well. The Senate has joined efforts to raise awareness about safety along the shoreline.

According to local law enforcement, life preservers on piers are stolen with regularity, severely jeopardizing public safety. Senate Bills 816 and 817 would crack down on the theft of these safety devices, making such thefts a crime with stiff penalties.

Senator Patterson was proud to vote for the bills and supported Senate Resolutions 77 and 78 which would increase public awareness of the dangers of rip currents in the Great Lakes. Rip currents often form near piers and can be very strong, taking even an Olympic-caliber swimmer swiftly away from the shore. They can occur with absolutely no warning and have led to the tragic loss of life. Greater public outreach can help educate visitors to the Great Lakes about basic pier and shoreline safety and help prevent future tragedies.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Eight states and two Canadian provinces make up the Great Lakes Basin. Michigan is the only state with its complete land mass in the Basin.
- With over 11,000 inland lakes, Michigan contains 1,399 square miles of inland water.
- Michigan has more shoreline than any other state except Alaska.
- Michigan has nearly 1 million registered boaters who contribute over \$2 billion to the economy each year. Anglers contribute another \$2 billion.

2006-2008 MICHIGAN FISHING GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

As of April 1, 2006, all anglers will be required to have a 2006 Michigan Fishing License. Copies of the new 2006-2008 Michigan Fishing Guide and the Inland Trout & Salmon Guide are available at all license vendors around the state and online. Anglers will want to pay close attention to the "Major

Regulation Changes" listed on page 3 in the Fishing Guide.

You can obtain a copy of the 2006-2008 Michigan Fishing Guide at www.michigan.gov/dnr.



FISHING NEWS

Introduce a friend to fishing during **Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend** held June 10-11, 2006. Residents and out-of-state visitors can fish without a license for this weekend only. All fishing regulations still apply. Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr for more information about special programs. You can also find the **2006-2008 Michigan Fishing Guide**, check the "Weekly Fishing Report," and access bathymetry maps of many Michigan inland lakes at the site.

Families can enjoy fishing fun this summer at one of the 20 Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas that host a weekly **Fishing in the Parks** program. Instruction and

fishing is free. Kids under age 17 don't need to have a license. Find a list of the participating parks and phone numbers at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Certain kinds and sizes of fish from the Great Lakes and from some inland lakes and streams contain chemicals that may be harmful if those fish are eaten too often. The **Michigan Fish Advisory** shows which fish are okay to eat and how often they can be eaten. Access this guide at www.michigan.gov/mdch - click on Statistics and Reports. For the most up-to-date advice, call the Michigan Department of Community Health at 1-800-648-6942.

BOAT SAFE, BOAT SMART

Know the rules and practice good sportsmanship. Follow these safety guidelines suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before heading out:

1. Wear a life jacket. Ninety percent of boating fatality victims who drowned in 2004 were not wearing a life jacket.
2. Make sure your boat is properly equipped and in safe working order. Carry legally required equipment, such as life jackets and fire extinguishers, as well as a first aid kit, nautical charts and an anchor.
3. Don't drink alcohol. Nearly 50 percent of all boating accidents involve alcohol.
4. File a float plan. Always let someone on shore know where you're going and when you plan to return.
5. Maintain a safe speed and stay alert. Be ready for other boats, swimmers, skiers or shallow waters.
6. Carry a marine radio or cell phone. Be aware there may be gaps in cell phone coverage on the water.

For more safety tips, along with boating rules and regulations, check the **Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities**. This comprehensive guide is available from your local DNR office or it can be accessed online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

BOATERS CAN HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN WATERS

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are one of the greatest threats to the health of the Great Lakes. More than 160 non-native species, like zebra mussels and the round goby, have invaded the Great Lakes basin, mostly through the dumping of ballast water from ocean-going ships. Thanks to Senate legislation, a new law will control the discharge of ballast water from ocean-going vessels. Boaters and anglers can also help prevent the spread of these species.

Follow these clean boating tips:

- Remove all visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, and accessory equipment before leaving the access area.
- Dispose of live bait and aquatic animals in the trash. Do not release live bait into the water.
- Drain live wells and all water from boats before leaving the access area.
- Power wash boats and trailers whenever possible or dry all equipment thoroughly.
- Allow boat to dry for at least 10 days before launching into a different water body.

Boaters can also support research to help fight these pests by buying a Great Lakes Protection Fund Decal at www.michigan.gov/michiganmall. The \$35 decal is voluntary and does not replace any required watercraft registration or identification stickers.